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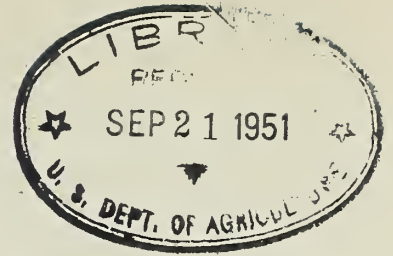
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of InformationBiographical material on
CHARLES F. BRANNAN
Secretary of Agriculture

Charles Franklin Brannan, of Colorado, became the 14th Secretary of Agriculture on June 2, 1948, after serving four years as Assistant Secretary. He was appointed by President Truman on May 24 and confirmed by the Senate on May 28.

Secretary Brannan throughout his career has dealt with agricultural and other natural resources. In 1935, as Assistant Regional Attorney in the Resettlement Administration, he arranged the purchase of drought-stricken land in the Mountain States. Between 1937 and 1941, as Regional Attorney in the Department's Office of the Solicitor, he aided in the formation of irrigation districts and other cooperative projects undertaken by farmers to help solve their land and water problems. Mr. Brannan administered a program of water facilities loans and supervised credit for individual families from November 1941 until April 1944 while he was Regional Director of the Farm Security Administration (now Farmers Home Administration) in the States of Colorado, Wyoming and Montana.

In April of 1944, he was called to Washington to become Assistant Administrator of the Farm Security Administration. Two months later he was appointed by President Roosevelt and confirmed by the Senate as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. During the period of postwar food and feed shortages he also served as director of the Department's Office for Food and Feed Conservation.

While Assistant Secretary, Mr. Brannan served as Vice Chairman of the Department's Program and Policy Committee in formulating recommendations which were presented to Congress in 1947 on long-range agricultural policy and programs.

As Secretary in 1949 he presented for the Administration further recommendations on price supports aimed at increasing the consumption of farm products and maintaining farm purchasing power.

Mr. Brannan has served as Vice Chairman and is now Chairman of the Board of Directors of Commodity Credit Corporation. He is also a Director of the Virgin Islands Corporation.

He has carried out several assignments in the international sphere: Agricultural adviser to the United States Delegation at the San Francisco organizing conference of the United Nations; delegate to the Ninth International Conference of American States at Bogota, Columbia; head of U. S. delegation to the Inter-American Conference on Conservation of Renewable Natural Resources at Denver, Colorado, of which he was elected President; head of U. S. delegation to and elected Chairman of the Fourth Annual Session of the U. N. Food and Agriculture Organization held in Washington, D. C.; member of the U. S. delegation to the United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources; adviser to the U. S. delegate to the U. N. Economic and Social Council; and Chairman of the United States Delegation and elected first Vice-President to the Fourth Inter-American Conference on Agriculture and the Second FAO Latin American Regional Conference, held in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Mr. Brannan was born in Denver on August 23, 1903. He was graduated from the University of Denver Law School in 1929 and practiced law privately in Denver before joining the Department. He has received honorary degrees of Doctor of Laws from the University of Denver and Doctor of Science from the Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College. He also serves as honorary member of the National Council of Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Brannan formerly was part owner of a cattle and grain ranch near Eads, in Yuma County, Colorado.

His wife is the former Eda V. Seltzer of Denver, to whom he was married in 1932.

(July 1951)

